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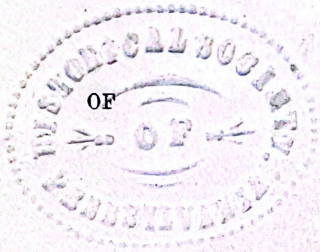


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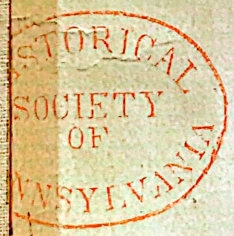


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## XXVII.—*The History of Mooreland from its first Purchase and Settlement to the present time.* By WILLIAM J. BUCK.

### PART I.

*The History of Mooreland* from its early Purchase and Settlement to the commencement of the American Revolution.*

William Penn, Proprietary Governor of Pennsylvania, by a certain patent under his hand and lesser seal of the province, did, for a consideration, grant and confirm to Nicholas Moore, on the 7th of the Sixth month, 1684, a tract of land containing 9815 acres in the county of Philadelphia, which was at the Governor's request called Mooreland, in honor of its purchaser, then Chief Justice of the province. It was required by the said patent that he, his heirs or successors, should for ever pay to the Proprietary, his heirs and successors, a silver English shilling for every one hundred acres annually as quit-rent. This tract which afterwards formed a township and was sometimes called the manor of Mooreland, may be stated to be bounded, after 1718, by the following townships, several of which had then been recently formed. On the northeast by Warminister and Southampton in Bucks county, and Byberry; and on the east by Byberry; northwest by Horsham and Upper Dublin, and on the southwest by Abington and Lower Dublin.

Among the most distinguished settlers of Pennsylvania, Nicholas Moore, an attorney of London, stands prominent. Hearing in England with a number of others of the enlightened policy of William Penn, and the advantageous inducements offered in the sale of lands, with the easy conditions of settlement, caused numbers to appear as ready purchasers. A company was formed at London and Bristol, of which he was chosen the president, called "The Free Society of Traders in Pennsylvania," the object of the company being the purchase of lands, with a view both to agricultural settlement and for the establishment of manufactories, and for carrying on the lumber trade and whale fisheries. He arrived with William Penn in 1682, and at the first Provincial Assembly held at Chester on the 4th of December, 1682, was chosen the first chairman or speaker. This Assembly continued in session only three days.

We find at a meeeting of the Assembly on the 12th of March, 1683, that several members reported to the Governor and Council that, at a public place, Moore had strongly spoken against their proceedings, for which he was ordered to appear before them, when he was requested to avoid such discourse in the future as being unreasonable and imprudent. In the beginning of 1684 he was again a member of the assemby for the county of Philadelphia, and much to the opposition of the members alluded to, was again re-elected speaker of that body. On the 4th of

*By this name the author designates what are now Moreland Township in Montgomery county, and the Manor of Moreland in Philadelphia county.—PUB. COMMITTEE.

6th month, William Penn commissioned him with four others provincial judges for the two years from the said date. And on the 12th of 7th month, the Council duly qualified him to act as one of the Judges of the Province, and he was made chief justice of the number.

The Assembly on the 15th of May, 1685, drew up a declaration against him, which was presented by the speaker and members to the President and Provincial Council, in the council chamber. In this they charged the said Nicholas Moore, in a bill of ten articles, with various crimes and misdemeanors, such as assuming unlimited and arbitrary power, of sending unlawful writs to the sheriffs, refusing a verdict brought in by a lawful jury; that he had declared neither he nor his actions were accountable to the Council, and had denied their authority, and assumed the power to appoint the time of holding the circuit courts, and placing himself above the reach of justice. Therefore the Assembly resolve to put bounds to his ambition, violence and oppression, impeach and charge him with the above and various other crimes and misdemeanors, and request the President and Provincial Council to remove the said Nicholas Moore from his great offices and trust, and require him to answer the various charges brought against him. By order of the Assembly, the speaker appointed a committee of four to inform him of their proceedings, and request him to appear before them the next morning at 7 o'clock. As he did not appear, it was ordered on the 16th of September following, that as he was suffering from sickness and in a languishing condition, no definite answer could be given.

A short time after the Provincial Judges were commissioned, William Penn left the province for England. At the close of their session, the Assembly transmitted a letter informing him of the impeachment. A notice was likewise sent to Judge Moore, by the Council, requesting him to desist acting in any court of judicature.

It seems that on receiving the impeachment, the conduct of the Assembly did not meet the approbation of the Proprietary, for after this, by letter in 1686, he changed the executive government to a board of five commissioners, amongst whom were N. Moore and two of his associate judges; any three of whom were to be a quorum competent for the transaction of business. While this board continued to act, which was nearly two years, and by which he was promoted to an office of the highest responsibility, his conduct gave general satisfaction. Whatever the Assembly accused him of, he enjoyed the high confidence of William Penn. His integrity gained him many friends, and his abilities were such as to have made him a conspicuous character in the early history of our State. After a languishing illness of several years, he died in 1689. His name has become identified with, and will be handed down to other generations by one of the richest and loveliest agricultural districts in Pennsylvania.

From the power conferred in the charter granted by Charles II., the Proprietary and his successors were the absolute owners of the soil. They stipulated to extinguish all the aboriginal right, to whatever lands were conveyed to those holding their titles under them. William Penn, a short time previous to the grant to Nicholas Moore, procured by two

purchases from the Indians, their right to any portion embraced within the limits of Mooreland. The first had within its limits two-thirds of the said grant, and was purchased the 23d of June, 1683, of Essepenaike, Swanpees, Okkettarikon and Wessapoak, chiefs, for a consideration to be paid in wampum, guns, stockings, looking glasses, blankets and other goods, being for all their lands lying between the Pennepack and Neshaminy creeks, and giving up all claims to the same for ever.

On the 7th of June, 1684, Metamicon, whom the whites had called Richard, relinquished all his right to the lands on both sides of the Pennepack, from its source to its entrance into the Delaware. He had, it is believed, always resided with his followers upon this stream, and was loth to part with the hunting greund of his fathers. But he nobly complied, though at a sacrifice, and with a few companions forsook his native stream to move farther towards the setting sun, thinking with sad feelings as he wended his way, that with every step he left a track for the white man to follow. Metamicon is the only Indian we can find, with certainty, that was a resident by our beautiful stream, and we regret to say that it bears the only aboriginal name in Mooreland. Some time after, in July, 1685, an extensive purchase was made for the land between the Pennepack and Chester creeks. The last conveyance of lands by the Indians in this part of Pennsylvania, was made at Philadelphia the 5th of July, 1697, by the celebrated chief Taminy, his two brothers Sethimac and Weheeland, his son Wehequeekhon, named Andrew who was to be his successor, and his other sons Yaqueekhon and Quenamockquid, for all the lands between the Pennepack and Neshaminy creeks, and extending several days' journey beyond the sources of those streams. This embraced all the track, mentioned as having been purchased in 1683, but this was deemed essential, as the claims of the Indians to their lands frequently conflicted, from their having no boundaries and holding it in common. It was the policy of William Penn to secure their general consent, and to cause no jealousies among them that might in the least degree conflict with the prevailing harmony.

We deem the present occasion suitable to say a few words respecting those who were once the sole owners of our soil. As a tribe they have long ago disappeared, and but few memorials remain in Mooreland of their existence. The antiquarian can trace but one name, and yet occasionally, the ploughshare turns up an arrow-head or an axe, ingeniously made of stone, which induces the ploughboy to stop and pick them up, to wonder to whom, or to what kind of a people they might have belonged. When our early settlers came amongst them, they received them with great kindness, cheerfully supplied their wants, and often shared with them their rude and humble dwellings. They considered their white guests as sacred persons, and willingly exchanged their lands and furs for useful and ornamented articles, and frequently presented them with lands.

The historian need not sully a page to record a single outrage that ever occurred here between the white and red man. They lived in harmony; though fire arms and other weapons were supplied them in traffic and the exchange of their lands, they were never employed for hostile

purposes. Several traits in their character especially redound much to their honor; in all their treaties, sales of lands and other bargains, they always complied with the stipulations, and retained an inviolable respect for the property belonging to the whites, and whatever was entrusted them could be punctually relied upon; their hospitality knew no bounds; the last morsel was shared, and the only robe in the red man's hut given the stranger to keep him warm.

Somewhere about 1685, Nicholas Moore commenced the erection of buildings on the lower or eastern part of his tract, about half a mile west of where Smithfield now is; where he built himself a mansion house suitable to the dignity of the first Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, and which formed the first settlement in Mooreland, which he named Green Spring, from an excellent spring of water that flowed near by. Previous to his residence here, he resided in Philadelphia, on what was called lot number six, which he had early purchased, and which contained several thousand acres.

It was supposed, that in making the surveys of the first grants, large quantities of overplus lands had been included in the patents. It was finally agreed that any lands in the Province might be re-surveyed, when there was reason to believe that they included more than what was called for in the conveyance. It is believed that it was rarely or never done intentionally, but in mistake, or from the want of proper skill; which was so requisite in making the surveys of a country then in a state of nature, with so many impediments in the way, as it is well known that the old surveys always overran those more recently made. By a warrant issued by the Commissioners of property, the 10th of July, 1689, Thomas Fairman, deputy surveyor-general was empowered to make a re-survey of Mooreland, when it was ascertained that there was an overplus of 500 acres, which was laid off in one piece on the upper or north-western part, now adjoining Horsham, and extending south from the county line. By this survey, Mooreland as originally granted, must have contained 10,413 acres, which includes four acres for difference in surveys, and six for roads, to every one hundred acres, which was required to be given additionally, in a new patent. The above 500 acres overplus were sold to the said Thomas Fairman and Anna Salters.

In the grant of 1684, Mooreland was stated to be in Philadelphia County, though no boundary had then been made with the adjoining County of Bucks, which the Council finally determined upon in April, 1685. In making this survey, we learn, that where the county line-road now extends, along the entire length of Mooreland, in a north-west course, there was a dense forest, and they were compelled to mark their course as well as the boundary line on the forest trees. This now forms the division line between Bucks and Montgomery Counties, and separates Mooreland from Warminster and Southampton Townships.

Not long after the decease of Nicholas Moore in 1689, Mary his wife died, and some time previous to 1694, his son Samuel and daughter Rebecca deceased, leaving three surviving children. Nicholas Moore, at the time of his death, was considerably indebted. Among his creditors, John Holmes presented on the 23d of April, 1695, a petition to the

Council, who appointed a committee to examine the accounts in said petition, who reported to the Board, that they find the estate indebted to the amount of upwards of £270 to different individuals. John Holmes was, therefore, empowered to sell the plantation of Green Spring, with the lands and improvements, and such other parts of Mooreland, as might be sufficient to pay their just debts and for the education of the surviving children, and the better improvement of the remainder of said estate. The mansion house, with 600 acres of land was sold at public sale, shortly afterwards, in that year, by John Holmes, and was bought by Henry Comly of Middletown, Bucks County, who, in 1704 erected a new mansion, which is yet standing, and is without doubt the oldest building in Mooreland, and is still occupied, and now in possession of Franklin Comly, Esq., a descendant of his.

It is believed that no lands were sold from Mooreland, except that above mentioned, and the overplus of 500 acres; this, no doubt, had a tendency somewhat to retard its early settlement. It seems that about the year 1702, or a short time before, the heirs of Nicholas Moore divided the remainder of his estate. Nicholas Moore, jr., resided in the lower part, and took an extensive portion there. His sisters, Sarah and Mary, the former of whom was married to William Sluby, resided in Philadelphia, and took an extensive tract in the western part, and the latter, who was married to Elias Keach, a distinguished Baptist preacher, took several thousand acres in the upper part, embracing all the lands in and around where Hatborough is.

A question arises, whether Mooreland is precisely in its limits, as it was granted by William Penn. We are induced to believe that it has been enlarged more than a century ago to its present limits, but to what additional extent cannot be ascertained. In an indenture made in England, William Penn, the 14th of July, 1681, granted to Thomas Rudyard 5000 acres of land, which he granted, the 15th of July, 1685, to Andrew Robeson. This descended to his son Samuel, and he, the 20th of February, granted 3320 acres to Thomas Fairman; his son Benjamin sold 600 acres from this tract to various individuals, which we know extended from the centre of Mooreland to the Abington line, in the direction of Edge Hill and the Village of Abington. But how much more of the said 3320 acres came to Mooreland, we cannot tell, though we believe it was not much more than half of Thomas Fairman's grant, the rest being in Abington. In the deeds of Benjamin Fairman to John Buskirk in 1726, and of William Thomas in 1730, mention is made that it is not known whether the land conveyed is in, or adjacent to Mooreland. These perplexities arose from the country's being then covered with dense forests, and but sparsely inhabited. These conveyances unquestionably establish the fact, that Mooreland has become enlarged beyond the original grant. With this exception, it is not known that its limits have otherwise been changed.

The heirs mentioned of Nicholas Moore after 1702, continued to sell in portions to suit purchasers from various parts of the estate; sometimes they sold it individually, but often jointly, especially the more central parts. In 1703, 1200 acres were purchased by Nicholas Waln and

Thomas Shute; this embraced all the land in and around the Willow Grove and the western corner of Mooreland; these purchasers sold it off in lots varying from 50 to 300 acres, so that by 1730 it contained ten or twelve families. Among the early settlers in this section of Mooreland who purchased lands and made improvements, may be mentioned John Simcock, Jacob Dubree, James Dubree, Thomas Hallowell, William Dunn, Ralph Dunn, John Waln, Nathan Bewly and Thomas Pennington. Previous to 1712, the following persons settled around Hatborough and the upper part adjoining Horsham: Thomas Lloyd, John Salters, John Swift, Jacob Izelstein and William Allen. The first that located themselves between the Old York and Middle roads, were Benjamin Cooper, Thomas Parry,* William Walton, John Van Buskirk, Joseph Van Buskirk, Thomas Wood, Peter Chamberlain, James Tuthill, Samuel Robeson, William Thomas, David Maulsby, Jacob Boilieu, Randolph Morgan, Thomas Kirk, Walter Moore, Harman Yerkes, Anthony Yerkes and Josiah Yerkes. Those east of the Middle to the Pine Road, were Cornelius Wynkoop, Philip Wynkoop, John Harrison, John McVaugh, Samuel Boucher, William Murrey, John Butcher and Caspar Fetters. Between the Pine Road and Byberry, Joseph Mitchell, Jonathan Comly, Richard Maple, Derrick Hewson, William Roberts, Albertson Walton, William Tilyer, Henry Comly, Nicholas Moore, jr. and John Blackford.

Before the year 1686, William Puryour, John Jones, Richard Woods and William Dillion, took large grants of land in what is now Horsham, adjoining Mooreland. Silas Crispin took a large grant in Upper Dublin, in 1695, and built himself a cabin in the woods at that early period, near the north-west corner of Mooreland. Captain Thomas Holmes, surveyor general of the Province, received a grant from William Penn, of 2,500 acres, which was laid out in 1685, and confirmed by a patent from the commissioners in 1688. His executor, in 1696, sold to John Hallowell 600 acres, which extended from upper Dublin, along the Mooreland line, 340 perches. John Greaud, Philip Hill, John Iramonger, Thomas Terwood and John Hood, purchased the remainder of Holmes' grant. John Hallowell came from Nottinghamshire, and John Hood from Leicestershire, England; they arrived in Pennsylvania in 1682, and resided near Darby, where they were members of the Meeting. They afterwards, with their families, settled on the above purchases in 1697, where, it is said, that they first lived in caves as they were called, like the early settlers of Philadelphia, which were cabins, constructed half a story in the ground. It is believed that all the Hallowells in Pennsylvania, of whom there are many in Mooreland and Abington, are descended from the above John Hallowell. We have discovered by the conveyances of the above lands, that Abington, previous to 1701, was known only as Hilltown Township.

The Old York Road, about 1712, extended up as far as Hatborough, and was the first highway used for travel to Philadelphia by the people of the upper section of Mooreland. In 1716, Bartholomew Longstreth

* He built the first mill in the western part of Mooreland, in 1731, on the Willow Grove Creek, about fifty yards above where is now Benjamin Morgan's mill

and several others continued it as far as the little Neshaminy, not far above Hartsville.

In the years 1716–17, the Society of Friends had sufficiently increased in the upper parts of Mooreland and Horsham, adjoining, to hold meetings, and several years after, they erected a meeting house where Horshamville now is, which stood till the year 1803, when the present large building was erected, more suitable to their increasing numbers.

In 1721, the Governor, Sir William Keith, formed a settlement in Horsham, near the county line; and for its improvement and better communication with the city, petitioned the Council in March, 1722, to cause public roads to be made through the woods, from said settlement. At his request, Robert Fletcher, Peter Chamberlain, Richard Carver, Thomas Iredell, John Barnes and Ellis Davis, were constituted a jury, and laid out, the 23d of April following, a road from said settlement, since known as Grahame Park, to Horsham meeting house; and from thence, to a bridge at Round Meadow, (Willow Grove,) a distance of five miles and a-half. Previous to the construction of this road, there was but a winding pathway for travel, leading nearly all the way through woods. This highway was called, for nearly half a century afterwards, the Governor's road, in honor of its projector, who, between the years 1723–6, was frequently seen travelling over it in his coach, going to and from Philadelphia and his country seat, at the aforesaid place. It was afterwards in the course of time, called the Easton Road; and now the greater portion of the distance is occupied by the Willow Grove and Doylestown Turnpike.

It seems remarkable at the present time, that the Susquehanna Street, an obscure road of little travel, should have been a public highway twenty-five years before the laying out of the Governor's Road. The same gentlemen, the next day, laid out from the Old York Road, in a northwest course on the county line, a public road extending thence a distance of four miles. This is now known as the County line Road, and forms the boundary for half a mile, between Mooreland and Warminster. The surveys of both these roads were made by Nicholas Scull.*

* As far as our recollection serves us, we never yet have seen any notice whatever given of this distinguished individual, beyond an incidental mention of his name. Whether he was a native of Pennsylvania, we are unable to tell, but he resided at an early period in White Marsh, fourteen miles north of Philadelphia, on the property now known as Scheetz's Mill. He spoke fluently several Indian languages, and was considered in his time, the most skilful surveyor in the province. He was appointed surveyor general in the beginning of the year 1748, and continued in that office till Dec. 1761; his successor, John Lukens, a native of Horsham, served with him his time in surveying. Near said mill, on the side of Camp Hill, in a field, is seen a dilapidated stone enclosure, about eight yards square, in which is found an only tombstone, with the following inscription, written by him:

"To the memory of Abigail, the wife of Nicholas Scull, who departed this life, the 21st of May, 1753, aged 65 years.

The ashes of the tender wife lies here,
The tender mother and the friend sincere;
Her mind each female ornament possess'd,
And virtue reign'd triumphant in her breast."

By the side of her to whom this affectionate tribute is given, it is said he lies

Elias Keach and Mary his wife, left an only daughter Hannah, heir to their portion of the Mooreland estate. She was married in London to Revitt Harrison, who shortly after died, when she removed to Stanford, Lincolnshire, where she appointed by an instrument of procuration, the 10th of January, 1738, her son John Harrison, attorney to her lands and hereditaments. He resided in Hatborough for several years after the above date, selling the remainder of the estate.

From a list of taxables left us in 1740, we are enabled for the first time to form an estimate of the population of Mooreland. At that time there were 122 taxables, occupying 102 dwellings, containing 600 inhabitants.

The winter of 1740–1, was long remembered as "the winter of the deep snow;" it lay from four to five feet deep, from Christmas to the beginning of March. The crust on its surface was so firm as to bear horses and sleds. It is said that those who cut down trees this winter for fuel, were surprised in the spring, to see stumps standing six and seven feet high. From accounts it would seem that this snow in depth, time of falling, as well as in duration and effect, was much like the snow that fell in the winter of 1835–6, nearly a century afterwards.

As early as the year 1755, a number of gentlemen in and around Hatborough, commenced the formation of a library, which was the second established in Pennsylvania; twenty-five years later than the Philadelphia library. It commenced by the several members' bestowing their books for the purpose of loaning them to one another, with the addition of an annual sum for the purchase of new books. It went on steadily increasing so that by the time of the Revolution, it contained upwards of 500 volumes. The books, at the time of its formation and for a number of years afterwards, were kept in a house which stood nearly opposite the present library building, on the spot now occupied by Radcliff's hotel.

From 1750 to 1764, the Indians were in the general practice of coming every Autumn to Philadelphia in considerable numbers, some times fifty to one hundred in a body, often men, women and children together. They would encamp for several weeks at a time in various parts of Mooreland, particularly in the woods around Hatborough, occupying most of their time in making and selling baskets, mats and splint brooms. They were mostly from beyond the Blue mountains, between the Susquehanna and Delaware rivers, and sometimes brought considerable quantities of furs along with them. It is said they delighted to paint their faces, and were exceedingly fond of decorating themselves with various kinds of trinkets.

Before we enter into the more exciting times of the American Revolution, when the fair fields of Mooreland were to be stained by the American and the Briton engaged in hostile conflict, we will tell of men,

buried, with nothing whatever to mark the spot of one who acted a prominent part in the early annals of our State. From appearances, we would not be surprised ere long, if the ploughshare would extinguish all traces of what was his final resting place, and of the one whose memory he cherished.

matters and things that transpired long ago, who have no survivor left us, as a witness to relate what we would like to transcribe; but we will cheerfully mention what we have deemed of the most interest as handed in tradition from generation to generation, while those venerable old men have disappeared for years and gone the way of their fathers. We have been interested in the past, and delighted to collect all the facts we could of what might have occurred in those venerable looking houses with their huge chimney tops, yet occasionally found scattered here and there; the school-houses where our worthy ancestors had their "ideas" to expand, and the fields, have become more endeared to us for their reminiscences.

The houses built by the early settlers previous to 1728, were, with few exceptions, of logs; but after that period, from the convenience of getting lime in Abington, but one or two miles from the Mooreland line, stone houses were more built, so that by 1776 a majority of them were substantial stone dwellings. But even down to this period, their barns and stables were with few exceptions built of logs, rudely constructed, and covered either with straw or split clapboards lapping one over the other, and, from their not being well seasoned, liable to warp and admit the rain in stormy weather. The greater number of houses were but one story high, with hipped roofs. The fire-places or hearths were of large dimensions, on which in the winter season would be seen a fire brightly burning, which we in these days of innovation can liken only to a fire found in a limekiln. As wood was of little value from its abundance and for all the purposes for which it was used, its economy was not considered, but on the contrary they took all possible means for its speedy removal, that the soil might the sooner be brought into cultivation. And as an additional inducement to effect this, indentured servants on farms at the time of their freedom, were required to be furnished with a *new* axe and grubbing hoe. Into these huge fire-places, to save the labor of cutting and splitting, would be put as they were called "back-logs" of such a size as to require rolling in, to be placed against the back wall of the hearth, when a fire was kindled which, with a little attention, would last several days. Around these fire-places, which not only gave forth warmth but a sufficient degree of light for ordinary purposes, would our forefathers on the long evenings of winter be assembled with usually several of their neighbors, when astonishing stories would be told, perhaps of witches, and Indian ghosts, which they not only saw, but often heard bewailing the encroachments of the whites. The glens and forests of the Pennepack particularly were said to be haunted, more especially at the dreary hours of midnight. Adventures would be told too of the chase, and the skill displayed at marksmanship, and of those who had achieved renown in the use of the axe, at wrestling, and other feats that required physical strength. At these times would they be wont to "to moisten their clay" freely with cider, cider-royal* or metheglin, and "little Johnny" would to a certainty be sent to the garrett for shell-barks or walnuts, and to the "hole" in the

*Mixture of cider and whiskey.

garden for apples, snugly buried in straw. On these occasions would the women of the household be seen, busily engaged in spinning flax or wool, to be woven into goods for family use, as all dressed in their own homespun, and prided themselves much on account of its quality. There then existed more familiarity and freedom in social intercourse; this arose from their circumstances, as they were more dependent on one another than now, and if in republicanism they had less theory than we, it is probable that in the practice of it they excelled us.

Even when Mooreland had been settled more than three fourths of a century, much in the way of transportation was done on horseback, huge sacks, walletts, and baskets or panniers, were constructed on purpose. Nearly all produce was taken to Philadelphia in this way, and horsemen would be thus seen nearly surrounded with poultry, pork, butter, flax, &c., and even live calves and sheep were taken to market by these means. Old and young, male and female, were usually conveyed on horseback, it mattered not either on business or pleasure, as well as to their different places of worship on the Sabbath. Some of the young women were celebrated for the skill and daring they exhibited in running their horses at full speed, through woods and creeks, and even over fences and ditches.

Sleds were used previously to wagons; the latter were at first very rudely constructed with little or no iron, the wheels were generally of solid wood cut with the saw from the end of a log; four of these would be placed on the ends of two heavy axletrees. A wagon thus made would require nearly the strength of two horses to draw from the scarcity as well as the newness of the roads, which were made with little regard for the removal of rocks or stumps, or the bridging of streams. And in unfavorable weather, particularly in the spring and commencement of winter, they were rendered so bad to travel over, as to be used with little advantage.

Farming at the close of this period was still carried on in a slovenly manner; their implements were rudely constructed, and often made of wood. As the soil was new and fertile, scarcely any attention was given to the application of manures; lime was rarely used, and plaster unknown. Their principal crops where wheat, rye, Indian corn, buckwheat, flax and oats; potatoes were scarcely introduced, timothy and clover grasses had not yet been brought into cultivation, and their hay was procured generally from meadows which were made more productive by the attention paid to irrigation. It was customary in those days, when farms contained two and four hundred acres, to save time and the labor of walking a distance, to dine in the fields in the summer time. Women then performed considerable out-door labor, such as reaping, binding and raking. Flax was an object of cultivation, and a spinning wheel, reel, and a side saddle formed a portion of the bride's outfit. Grain to be made into flour down as late as 1720, had to be taken on horseback to Logan's mill, five miles north of Philadelphia on the Old York road, and to Morris Gwin's and Lewis's mills on the Pennepack in Lower Dublin. To these two latter mills, on and before the above date, the early Welsh settlers from Gwynedd would be seen going, sometimes

thirty and forty in procession, a distance of twenty miles. Their pathway afterwards formed the Welsh road, whence its name. It may be interesting, from a paper in our possession, to mention the prices of several articles of produce and consumption, reduced to our present currency, as generally sold from 1730 to 1740. Wheat flour per cwt $1.40, wheat per bu. 49 cents, Indian corn 20 cents, flaxseed 53 cents, salt was bought for 22 to 25 cents, molasses 20 cents per gal., and sugar 15 to 18 cents per lb.

The fashions of those times were, as they are sometimes at the present, carried to extremes, so as to become a matter of inconvenience. We have been told of a young lady who had purchased in Philadelphia about 1765, a pair of black velvet wedding shoes, the pink of the fashion we presume, and after she had put them on in her chamber, found herself unable to descend the stairway on account of the heels, which were made of cork *three inches* in length. The shoe and knee buckles of this period were often of solid silver, highly ornamented and of elaborate workmanship; they are yet occasionally found in cultivating the fields, and are regarded as the curiosities of a past age.

Many things now regarded as necessaries, were then looked upon as luxuries, and only used by the wealthiest. Tea and coffee were drunk even by those in tolerable circumstances at first only on Sundays. Garden herbs, such as sage and thyme, were used, but more especially dittany* or mountain mint, was in great request for tea, and rye substituted as less expensive than coffee. Doughnuts were considered such a rarity as to be eaten only on Christmas, and calicoes were deemed too costly to be worn on any other days than Sundays. An aged lady long deceased informed us, that eighty-five years ago old and young commonly went half the year barefoot, and those who were enabled to wear shoes during the summer, were considered in fortunate circumstances. She mentioned when a girl, that in going to meeting she frequently carried her shoes to save their wear, and only put them on by the time she arrived in sight of the meeting house.

The generality of the people were extremely ignorant; they knew more of the marvellous and supernatural, than what related to science. It was nothing uncommon for men and women, when their cattle were suffering from disease, or met with losses or misfortunes, to go to Justices of the peace, to commence prosecution for damages arising from certain persons for sorceries and witchcraft. Cows sometimes were seen with red strings tied to their horns as charms, to make conjurations powerless. "Witch Doctors" were in high repute; among them were several who resided in Germantown, and a "Doctor" Dresher of Upper Dublin, who enjoyed renown and a wide spread practice. The good people would stand by in awe and gaping astonishment to behold the mysterious incantations of the "Doctor," and the final expulsion of the "witches." The divining rod was used to search for hidden treasure and lasting water for wells; it was made of the fork of a *sweet* apple tree, and an end was held in each hand, which by walking over the surface of the ground would finally *point* out whatever the search was made

*It is still found in abundance on the wooded hills of Mooreland.

for; its potency was said to be such as to *twist*, or even, by not letting go in time, to wrench the holder's arms. Scarcely a well would be dug or undertaken without its assistance, and a number were mentioned us as having been found by these means; some individuals were famed for their success, and were sent for as far sometimes as thirty and forty miles. The moon was believed to possess a powerful influence, and the almanac was often consulted to know the proper time for seeding, planting, felling trees, splitting rails, setting posts, and many other things "too numerous to mention."

School houses were few and very small. The schools were kept only in the winter season, by teachers seldom competent for the purpose; and rarely had more than twenty-five scholars. The price of schooling per quarter was $1.25, or two cents per day, and the teachers nearly always boarded with the parents of their scholars, a week usually at a time at each place. The branches taught were spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic, generally as far as proportion, or the "single rule;" to reach this was the young scholar's ambition; and when by the labor of his hands and the puzzling of his brains he arrived here, he was at the summit of his glory, and rumors went abroad that he was a *mathematician*, for all beyond was considered as easy and not worthy of being learned. Geography and grammar were not taught, their names even were not known to the pupils. Books and stationery in those days were high, and not conveniently procured. Many could neither read nor write even their own names, as may be seen in the deeds of this time. At the conclusion of this period there were five school-houses in Mooreland. The one near Hatborough is still standing on the Byberry road, near half a mile east of the village. It is supposed to have been built about 1730; here in 1768, N. B. Boilieu first went to school; it is a small stone structure; we will have occasion to speak of it in our second part. One stood on the Welsh road near the the present school-house, not far from the north west corner of Mooreland; it was built of logs: a similar one stood near Parry's mill on the Newtown road, near a mile north east of the Willow Grove. The Middle road school-house, below the Sorrel Horse, was built before 1745,* and is still used for the public schools. Another stood near the Byberry line, in the lower end of the township.

It must not be presumed by what we have said, that we intend to derogate the people; they had their virtues as well as faults. That sympathy that now exists for crime was unknown, neither was there that laxity in complying with contracts and obligations; those who in any way defrauded their creditors, were held in proper contempt. We were told of several instances where our country merchants had quit business, and collected in all sums due them from the neighborhood, without losing a penny. In those days securities were unknown, debts were honestly paid, and neither did popular opinion nor the laws screen property dishonestly obtained.

At the early settlement of Mooreland, the shad and herring ascended

* From a deed now in the possession of Hughes Warner.

the Pennepack in vast numbers. About the year 1700, by the erection of several dams for mills in Lower Dublin, their farther progress was prevented, and as a consequence they have ever since disappeared. Previous to 1720, wolves in severe winters were exceedingly troublesome to sheep; the stables and pens in which they were generally kept for security being built of logs rudely constructed, gave them an opportunity to commit great destruction in the night and even in the daytime; occasionally the gun alone would check their rapacity. It is said when the budding trees were felled in the spring, the deer would come within a few yards of the dwellings to browse. In 1744, Thomas Hallowell, a great sportsman, with a gun killed two deer at one fire near the Abington line. Bears were often killed with clubs, the last seen was near the Welsh road school-house in 1772. Wild turkies were still occasionally shot. Old James Dubree, in 1762, shot one by moonlight on a tall hickory tree,* that weighed thirty-two pounds. Joseph Hallowell shot, between 1774 and after 1776, four wild turkies on and near his farm.

The people in those days had their various places of worship. A majority of them belonged to the Society of Friends, who went generally to their most convenient meetings. The Abington meeting, near Jenkintown, and the Byberry meetings, were held as early as 1683, and Horsham in 1716. The Presbyterians organized themselves for worship in 1714, under the charge of the Rev. Malachi Jones, and built a church in 1717 at Abington (Mooretown,) which originally stood in the northwest part of the graveyard, till the present one was erected nearly opposite. Mr. Jones was pastor of this congregation near fifteen years, till the time of his death on the 26th of March, 1729; his tombstone is the earliest there containing an inscription. Those who lived in Mooreland and belonged to this church, resided mostly around Edge Hill and the central part. The Baptists built a church near Holmesburg in 1686, and half a century later built one at Southampton, where those from the upper part attended.

The population of Mooreland in 1776 may be estimated at 1320, of which it is supposed 100 were colored persons, of whom one fourth were slaves. At this time there were five grist mills, four stores, three taverns and five blacksmith shops, and not a church, post office, turnpike, or even a line of stages for the conveyance of passengers.

The villages, though they scarce deserve the name, were few. The largest was Hatborough, better known as the Crooked Billet, containing about eighteen houses, half of which were built of logs, a stone tavern, mill and blacksmith shop. This place derived its name from one of the first stone houses there, which not long after became a tavern and had for its sign a crooked billet, which name was originally derived from a popular inn then in Water street Philadelphia. John Dawson subsequently kept this house, and in connection followed his occupation of making *hats*, from whence its more recent name of Hatborough. This house, it is supposed, was built about 1705, and has since been altered into a modern

* It is a line tree nine feet in circumference, and is still standing half a mile northwest of the Willow Grove.

two story dwelling house, now occupied by Jesse Watson, coach maker. The Willow grove contained a store, tavern and blacksmith shop and about five dwellings. Previous to 1732 this place went by the name of Round Meadows, but about that time a tavern house was built at the confluence of the Old York and Governor roads called the Red Lion, which name this place still retains.

Smithfield at this time contained ten dwellings, among which were a store, tavern and blacksmith shop, the greater part of this place being in Byberry. The village now called Huntingdon Valley contained a mill, store, blacksmith shop and a few dwellings.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## Part II.

*The History of Mooreland from the commencement of the American Revolution to the present time.*

So far as an historian, our duty requires us to chronicle nothing but what related to the peaceful pursuits of life, when our hardy ancestors practised nought but rigid principles of economy and laborious industry; these had made the country what it was, from a "wilderness to blossom as the rose." The axe, the hoe, and the plough-share, by their brightness bespoke, their frequent use, but over this prosperity a dark cloud was to cast a transient gloom. Mooreland was to be invaded—the family circle broken—her quiet citizens turn soldiers, and her soil become stained with the blood of her sons. But from this in a while was the sun of Freedom to rise in greater splendor than ever yet was seen, attracting the gaze of nations; the gloom should vanish and all be more clear and beautiful, and the spot of our history to form a part of a mighty Republic.

Among our citizens who took an early part in the principles that caused the Revolution, Major Robert Loller of Hatborough stands conspicuous. He was firm and decided in his opinions, and was chosen one of the deputies for the county of Philadelphia, on the 18th of June, 1776, to consider the resolution of the Continental Congress, passed the fifteenth of May previous; recommending to the several Colonies to adopt governments adapted to their peculiar circumstances. On the 25th of June, Mr. Loller was appointed one of the judges of election for the same county, to be held on Monday, the 8th of July; the object of which was to elect members to a Convention in Philadelphia on the 15th, to form a Constitution for the State of Pennsylvania.

The Legislature of the State passed a militia law on the 17th of March, 1777, by which every county was to have a kind of military tribunal, composed of five officers, who were to hold courts, class and distribute the militia, and organize them into regiments and companies; to hold elections for officers, call out the people and those not attending, to

be fined, and the money to paid into the State treasury, with other extensive duties that devolved on said tribunal. In the execution of this law, those who belonged to the Society of Friends were placed in an unfavorable position, as from their religious principles they were restrained from taking an active part, as well as from contributing the means to assist in carrying on the war. But this was judged necessary to be enforced to check the further encroachments of the British in the country.

It was expected the enemy designed the subjugation of Philadelphia and the surrounding country. Captain John Lacey, a native of Bucks county, having served in 1776 in Colonel Wayne's regiment, was commissioned, the 6th of May, a Lieutenant Colonel of the Bucks county militia, and presiding officer of the tribunal above named. Some time after the President of the Council of State sent an urgent letter to him and the other field officers to be prepared for the emergencies likely to ensue. On the 26th of September, the British took possession of Philadelphia to the great consternation of the surrounding country. On the 15th of October, the people of Mooreland were aroused from their slumber by the loud report of artillery in a south-west direction; this was the morning of the battle of Germantown. The next day announced the enemy still nearer; Captain Webb, of the American army, with his company, passed the night within the walls of the Presbyterian grave-yard at Abington, and, as the morning was exceedingly foggy, as the previous one had been, they were suddenly surprised and captured by a British force and marched to the city. They were some time afterwards exchanged.

The wounded at Germantown were conveyed by the Americans as far as the western part of Mooreland and Upper Dublin adjoining; and, even against the will of the people, were left at their houses to be cared for. These were trying times in many respects.

Col. Lacey was commissioned a Brigadier General on the 9th of January, 1777, and to him was given the command of the militia between the rivers Schuylkill and Delaware. His orders were to watch the enemy, to protect the inhabitants, and prevent further intercourse between them and the country, and cut off all supplies designed for their use. To carry out these measures, he was stationed at Warwick, about the middle of January, and thence moved his camp, the 23d, to Grahame Park, Horsham.

On the morning of the 13th of February, a party of British light horsemen came up to the Red Lion tavern, on the Old York road, (now the Willow Grove) and took Mr. Butler, the landlord, prisoner to the city. Mr. Butler, from his opposition to the British cause, had got their ill will, and they had come out with the full intention of capturing him. They were generally kept well informed of the most important doings of the Americans, or those who strongly opposed them, by well paid spies who had resided in the country, and whenever they came amongst their countrymen who were Whigs, pretended to be the greatest enemies of the British. About January the 20th, Gen. Lacey, the better to put his orders into execution, stationed eighty men at Smithfield,

and on the 14th of February, a party of the enemy's horse and infantry came by surprise and took nearly half of them prisoners, the remainder narrowly escaped. It was much the practice of the British to come out of the city in the night for forage as well as to surprise the Americans and retire by next morning.

General Lacey with his forces, arrived in Mooreland the 3d of March, from the Cross-roads, (Hartsville,) and formed his camp half a mile east of Hatborough. Shortly after, he received 400 men from York and Cumberland Counties, which made his forces amount to 450, of whom about one fourth were armed; some time after, arms were received from Allentown. They suffered much at times for provisions, and often had but two days' allowance in camp.

Advanced guards and scouting parties occasionally arrested individuals going to market with provisions, but it was difficult to find proof sufficient for their conviction. Among those taken, was an individual named Abel Jones, from Bensalem, charged with trading with the British, and passing spurious coin, and continental paper money. He was sent for trial to Head Quarters, at Valley Forge, with the evidence; he was found guilty, and sentenced to receive one hundred lashes on his bare back, and sent to some public place in Pennsylvania, to be kept at hard labor during the war.

As the British paid in gold, which was very scarce in those paper-money days, for everything they wanted in Philadelphia, and that at high prices, they induced many to run the risk. Amongst them were many young men who had fled from their homes, either to escape from serving in the army, or to save their fines. Numbers of women, too, engaged in this illicit trade, taking, generally, their produce on their backs or in baskets, a-foot, as being at less risk, and that they might avoid patroles and scouting parties as occasions required, by going across fields. They usually carried poultry, meat, eggs, flour and grain; and brought usually back, calico, tea, coffee, and what was of great importance, salt. Many were arrested, found guilty, and publicly whipped; their things forfeited to the captors; the horses taken, when fit for draught or dragoon service, were ordered to be sent to the Quarter Master General, at Valley Forge, who paid the full value for them.

Isaac Ryan, a Farmer, who resided on the Easton Road, about a mile above the Willow Grove, being greatly in want of salt for keeping his meat, concluded to make the attempt to reach the city, as that was the only place where he could procure it. He had a fine young horse of great speed, whom he had accustomed to leaping hedges, fences and ditches, and with him, he determined to go; he went nearly the whole distance through woods and fields, and arrived by evening without hindrance in the city, where he procured a sack, and placing it before him the next morning, started for home. He travelled without interruption, till a mile north-east of Germantown, when he observed in the distance, several American light-horsemen, who beckoned him to stop; he put spurs to his horse, when they immediately gave pursuit. The chase continued for four miles at full speed, across fence and field, and on ascending Edge Hill, he found by the whistling of balls through

the branches, that they were so near, that to save himself he parted with his salt; and as he turned in the woods, a branch took his hat, which he lost. He soon found now that he easily distanced his pursuers, and when he arrived about a mile south-west of the Willow Grove,* he dismounted in the woods, to rest his horse. From the effects of this chase his horse became windbroken, so as to render him ever after worthless. His widow, of whom we have this account, died in September, 1850, in her 99th year.

John Tomlinson, a neighbor of Mr. Ryan, went with produce to market, and on his return was taken by a party of soldiers on patrole near Germantown, who deprived him of all, even his clothing, and in return gave him an old shirt and pair of pants, full of vermin. In this *new* suit he made his appearance at home, much to the astonishment of his neighbors, to whom he related his adventure; they in jest told him that he must have been exceedingly fortunate, as he had brought *more* than he had taken. The members, at this time, in going for books to the library at Hatborough, were frequently searched, and their gigs and chairs examined.

On the 19th, Gen. Lacey directed Lieutenant Robert Vanhorn, of Southampton, to take command of the light-horse and proceed from Hatborough towards the enemy's lines, as a scouting party. They patrolled the Bristol, Smithfield, Old York and White Marsh Roads by night and day, with orders to report immediately any appearance of the enemy. On the morning of the 26th of April, several teamsters from Northampton left the camp for home, and after they had proceeded about a mile on the County line Road, were met by a party of the enemy's horse, who captured one wagon and eight horses, and five or six prisoners. Of those that escaped, several were wounded.

It would have been supposed, after the surprise at Abington, Smithfield, the capture of Mr. Butler and the Northampton teamsters, that these misfortunes at least would have made Gen. Lacey and his men more vigilant, as they occurred nearly in sight of the camp, and always at or near the break of day; but such was not to be the case. What will now be related were the consequences that followed. As we have already stated, Gen. Lacey lay encamped about half a mile east of Hatborough, a short distance north of the Byberry road, on a part of the farm of Isaac Boilieu. The British were kept informed of the situation of his camp, the arrangement of his forces, and the places of his patroles. As his men had been active in preventing supplies from reaching the city, as well as checking communication with the country, the British suffered for provisions; therefore the capture of Gen. Lacey would be of considerable importance; and to do it more effectually and at less risk, they resolved to go by night. They had a number of guides, who were well acquainted with the country around; among them, two particularly have rendered themselves notorious in this affair, Abraham Iredell and Jacob Griffith, of Horsham.

The British left Philadelphia on the evening of the 30th of April,

* Then on the farm of William Hallowell, now in possession of John Shaw. It was on this place, where John Hallowell in 1697 built his cabin.

under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Abercrombie, consisting of a large detachment of light infantry and one of cavalry, with horses to mount a part of the infantry, for greater expedition. As near as can be now ascertained, they left the city by the Second Street or Middle Road, and somewhere below where Huntingdon now is separated. One division was given to the command of Major Simcoe, which entered not far south of the Willow Grove, into the Welsh Road; from this road, at the upper end of Mooreland, they struck across to Horsham meeting-house, and from thence kept on the road leading directly to Hatborough. Col. Abercrombie, with his division, went up the Middle Road, and then entered the Byberry Road, which went directly to Lacey's camp, to the east of Hatborough. It was the intention of the British to attack Lacey in the front and rear nearly at the same time, but Major Simcoe, from the distance made in his circuits to avoid the most public places, came half an hour too late. One of Lacey's scouting parties, under the command of a lieutenant first met Abercrombie's division, two miles to the south-east of the camp; but fearing he would be cut to pieces if he fired to give the alarm, from the nearness of the enemy's horse, fled in a contrary direction, and gave orders to another of the party to proceed towards the camp and give the alarm, but he never went. Abercrombie's forces were within two hundred yards, before they were discovered, as it was near daylight. The alarm was so sudden that Gen. Lacey had scarcely mounted his horse before they were within musket shot; a portion of the enemy had got by this time in his rear, and commenced firing from behind fences, while the remainder attacked him in front. He soon observed, that in numbers they were far superior to him, when he concluded to move in column towards the left, under cover of a wood in a north direction, with the baggage following in the rear. He had not passed far, before his flanking parties exchanged fires with the enemy; he now entered the woods, when he was attacked on his right flank by a party of foot and horse. Major Simcoe's division now arrived and fell on his rear; in these woods, a mile north-east of Hatborough, he made a stand, and gave such a warm fire as to force them to move back, in which the cavalry attempted to make several charges. Their strength now concentrating, Lacey moved on, when the enemy's dragoons, by a sudden charge intercepted his baggage; in the front, their horse giving away, he continued retreating and fighting for two miles, when he made a sudden turn to the left through a wood, which extricated him from the enemy. Lacey with his forces, came into the Old York Road, about half a mile below Hartsville, when he slowly moved down that road to Hatborough, where he found they had retired with the baggage to the city.

In this action the American loss was thirty killed and about seventeen wounded. Lieutenant Pinknard, in the beginning of the skirmish was severely wounded; he was carried to the house of Isaac Boilieu, where he stated, that among the British he had seen several who he knew had lived not far from that vicinity. He expired the next day. The British loss was trifling; six or seven were wounded, five horses were found dead and three captured.

Gen. Lacey with his forces, proceeded from Hatborough to the principal scene of action, where they found many spectators witnessing the shocking spectacle of those that were killed and wounded. During the skirmish, the enemy took a number of the wounded and threw them on buckwheat straw, which they set on fire. Several of the surviving sufferers related, that they saw them struggle to put it out, but from the loss of blood they were too weak, and so expired in the greatest agony; their half consumed remains confirmed the fact. Some that had been wounded with a ball, were afterwards inhumanly butchered, their bodies showing as many as twenty cuts and thrusts from the cutlass and bayonet. The dead were all collected together near the place where they were burned, and placed in one grave, on the north side of the County line Road, a few yards above what has long been known as Craven's Corner. It can be truly said,—

Here sleep the brave, their names forgot,
And not a stone to mark the spot.

At the beginning of the action, Isaac Boilieu drove his cattle in a north-east direction from his house, to save them from being taken. During his absence, the enemy, knowing from their spies that he was an ardent whig, searched all his premises to take him, but without success. The lieutenant who had command of the scouting party and never gave the alarm, was tried by a court-martial and cashiered. The officer who commanded the scouting party before it was divided and who had orders to leave the camp by two o'clock, and whose duty it was to see it enforced, did not leave till near daylight, was overtaken by the enemy's horse and killed on his way to camp. To the disobedience and misconduct of this and the other officer of the scouts, Gen. Lacey attributed his misfortunes.

From the scene of action, Gen. Lacey and his forces went to the Neshaminy bridge on the Old York Road, where he formed his camp. Hence he immediately sent a despatch to Gen. Washington, informing him of the result. The Commander-in-Chief, the next day, sent him the following brief and excellent letter:

HEAD QUARTERS, VALLEY FORGE, *May* 3d, 1778.

SIR—I received yours of yesterday, giving me an account of your misfortune. You may depend that this will ever be the consequence of permitting yourself to be surprised; and if that was owing to the misconduct of the officer who was advanced, you should have him brought to trial. It is not improbable that the enemy, flushed with their success, will soon be out again; if you keep a strict watch upon their motions, you may perhaps repay them. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

It never has been rightly ascertained what were the strengths of the respective forces engaged, but it is supposed that the Americans had about 400 men, and the British near triple that number. In this affair, though the enemy met with some success, they failed completely in the general object of the expedition. Gen. Lacey, from Neshaminy bridge, made his camp at the Cross-roads. On the 18th of June the

British evacuated Philadelphia for New York, when, shortly after, Gen. Lacey went to Bristol, and the country around once more became quiet.

It may not be amiss to inform the reader of the subsequent fate of Lt. Col. Abercrombie's regiment, which composed the greater part of the men engaged in the above attack. It was called the "Queen's Rangers," and numbered 800 men, divided into ten companies, many of whom were tories, or American royalists. They were uniformly dressed in green trimmed with black, for purposes of better concealment. It is said, by this dress Americans frequently mistook them for friends, and were thus made prisoners and impressed into service. This regiment was sent from New York with Lord Cornwallis's army, to the South, where they followed his fortunes, and finally surrendered at Yorktown with the rest, to Gen. Washington, when it was ascertained that they had been reduced to 320 men in less than three years and a-half.

At the present time, when everything belonging to the American Revolution has become more interesting, we deem the occasion suitable to relate a few additional particulars.

Shortly after the British took possession of Philadelphia, and had made excursions into the country for the purpose of plundering, soldiers were sent in parties from the main army at White Marsh* and Valley Forge, to search all places for fire arms, grain and cattle, which they took forcibly for the use of the army, and likewise to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy. Whatever was taken, they left orders for, to be paid by the Quarter Master General. The consequences were, great pains were taken in those troublesome times by the country people, to conceal in ceilings, partitions, garrets and other places, their most valuable effects, and such as were likely to be wanted by the army. Tea, coffee, salt, and cotton goods became very high and scarce, owing mostly to the obstructions existing between the city and country, by the patrolling parties of the different armies. Men, and even boys of sixteen years of age, were occasionally impressed into service by parties of British as well as Americans.

Col. Joseph Hart, of Warminster, in 1778, owned the mill, now Dr. Hallowell's,† beneath the floors of which were concealed the fire arms that had been collected in Mooreland and the adjoining townships. For safe keeping, a body of soldiers were stationed here as a guard. Joseph Hallowell, then a boy, related that he saw one of them with a rifle, in a distance of 150 yards, put three balls successively in the same spot.

* Washington with his army arrived at White Marsh, December 1st, 1777, and remained there till the 18th, when they went into winter quarters at Valley Forge. The army while at White Marsh contained 11,100 men, of whom it is said, 3000 were unfitted for duty. The writer visited this place not long since, and was shown the remains of entrenchments on the brow of Camp Hill, running parallel with the road leading to the city, which were mounted with cannon. A skirmish took place here on the morning of the 5th. Musket and cannon balls are yet occasionally found; we were told, that a few years ago in ploughing a field there was discovered various relics, such as pewter plates, broken swords, bayonets, musket-locks, &c. The house in which General Washington had his head quarters is yet standing; it is a large, ancient looking two story stone house, now owned by John Fitzwater.

† This mill was built in 1762, by Samuel Lloyd.

In the latter part of 1778, the Supreme Executive Council issued proclamations, which were posted up at the most public places in Moreland, warning the people from disaffection, and requiring certain persons to surrender themselves within forty days, or stand attainted of high treason. Amongst these were Joseph Cromly, John Loborough and John Burke, who, from their strong attachment to the British cause, had rendered themselves particularly obnoxious. To escape from trial, they fled, and followed the remains of the British army to New York, and finally settled in the Province of New Brunswick. Their estates were confiscated and sold; John Cromly's farm was situated on the Pine Road, and contained 100 acres, John Loborough's 127, and Burke's, adjoining, 33½ acres, in the lower part of Moreland.

In our first part, mention was made of a reservation in the purchase of Moreland, of an annual quit-rent, which was a source of much grievance, as repeated offers had been made to buy them off, which the heirs of William Penn always declined. On the 27th of November, 1779, the Assembly abolished this payment for ever, to the great satisfaction of the people.

By an act of the Assembly, passed the 10th of September, 1784, it was proposed to erect the new County of Montgomery out of a part of what had been Philadelphia. By this formation, Moreland became divided, as it is to the present day; two-thirds of it went into Montgomery, the remainder was left to Philadelphia. This division was owing to petitions' having been numerously signed by the citizens residing in the lower portion of the Township, and presented to the Legislature, in which they stated the inconveniences arising from their situation, in being obliged to go a much greater distance to the seat of Judicature, as proposed for the new county, than if they remained in Philadelphia. The elections of Moreland, with twelve other townships, were held at the house of George Eckhart in White Marsh, for twelve years; when, in 1797, they were removed to the Village of Abington, which was much more convenient, where they remained till the year 1813.

The celebrated Elizabeth Ferguson, of whom Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia, has written an excellent memoir, was the grand-child of Sir William Keith. Her father was Dr. Thomas Grahame, a native of Scotland; he was long colonial collector of the port, and a member of the Assembly for the County of Philadelphia. We have spoken of the Governor's settlement in Horsham, in 1721: the estate there came into Dr. Grahame's possession, which he occupied for some time as his summer residence. He was an early member of the library at Hatborough, to which he presented several works. Before his death he bequeathed this estate to his daughter, who was married a short time before the commencement of the revolution, to Henry Hugh Ferguson, who, after a short residence here, took an early part in the dispute with Great Britain, whose side he embraced, which caused a final separation between him and Mrs. Ferguson. He was made commissary of prisoners during the war, and followed the departure of the British army to England. Mrs. Ferguson spent the remainder of her days on or near the estate, which was confiscated, and greatly reduced her fortune: but a part was

restored by an act of the Assembly in 1781, and was vested in her right. She was a lady of education and of distinguished literary acquirements; she wrote a tribute to the memory of her nephew, John Young, which may be seen in D'Argent's Ancient Geography, which he translated from the French, in the library at Hatborough. She likewise, in her retreat, wrote much poetry, part of which was published, and may be seen in Evans' Poems, under the signature of Laura: this book contains her autograph and several poems, and prose subjects, written with the pen and never published. She was long a member of the library, and, besides, presented the following works: Practical Astronomy, Answer to the Church in Ireland, Cramer on Metals, Gascon's Collections, Angeloni's Letters, Davenant's Essay on Trade, Ozinam's Mathematics, and perhaps other works which we have not ascertained. She was often seen going through the Willow Grove alone and a-foot, to the city, a distance of nineteen miles. She conformed to her condition in all the changes of fickle fortune with perfect resignation, and was beloved by all, for her deeds of charity and kindness of heart, as well as admired for her accomplishments. She died at the house of Seneca Lukens, February 22d, 1801, at the age of 62 years, and agreeably to her request, was interred by the side of her parents and Lady Keith, in the south part of Christ Churchyard. Grahame Park, (the name of her estate,) is now in possession of William Penrose. Dr. Grahame had here a park stocked with deer; this place has given a name to the white or ox-eye daisey, (*chrysanthemum leucanthemum,*) which has become naturalized from England, and is said here to have made its first appearance, and is now known throughout Pennsylvania as the "Park weed."

The Cheltenham and Willow Grove Turnpike Road was the first of the kind made in Mooreland; it was laid on the bed of the Old York Road, and extends from the Willow Grove to the Rising Sun, a distance of 10½ miles; it is covered with stone, 24 feet wide, 13 inches in depth, and cost $8000 per mile. The company received their charter the 13th of May, 1803, and commenced it the same year, and finished in 1804.

Robert Loller, of whom we have had occasion to speak as an early and active friend of the revolution, was a major of the militia, a deputy of Philadelphia County, to consider the adoption of the Constitution, and a judge of elections for delegates. He was one of the first associate judges of Montgomery County, which office he held for many years, and was a popular and highly esteemed man, and a friend of general education. He resided in the house now occupied by the Principal of the Academy. Towards the close of his life he was much afflicted with the gravel, and was taken from his residence to Philadelphia to be cured, where he shortly after expired, the 21st of October, 1808, aged 68 years. His remains were interred in the Presbyterian graveyard at Abington; the same tomb encloses those of Mary, his wife. He left no children; and by his will, directed a literary institution to be built and endowed. The Hon. N. B. Boilieu he appointed his executor.

Loller Academy, the institute spoken of, was built in 1811–12 at Hatborough, on a portion of Judge Loller's estate. It was incorporated by an act of the Legislature, February 12th, 1812, and was at that time

the thirty-fifth incorporated since the first settlement of the State. It stands on a commanding site, and from a distance its cupola attracts the attention of the traveller. The clock of this academy was made by Isaiah Lukens, an ingenious mechanic of Horsham, and one of the founders of the Franklin Institute. The academy cost upwards of $11,000, and as endowed, has an annual fund of more than $200, beside the appropriation from the district for the support of the public school.

After the erection of the academy, the old school house mentioned in our first part, on the Byberry Road, was deemed unnecessary, and by an act of March 30th, 1812, Nathaniel B. Boilieu, Thomas Montanye and Gove Mitchell were authorised to sell it with the lot of ground appurtenant thereto. The proceeds were appropriated, one-half to the academy, and the other to the erection of a new school house on the land of Isaac Pickering, a mile east of Hartborough on the County line, near the intersection of the Newtown Road. This venerable building, which served Hatborough and its neighborhood for more than three-fourths of a century as a school house, has been used as a dwelling house since 1812.

Among the aged persons of Mooreland, may be mentioned Mrs. Abigail Barnes, relict of Robert Barnes, who died the 20th of August, 1829, in her 100th year, at the house of Peter Lukens, a mile north of the Willow Grove, near the Old York Road. She had but a few days illness; age had little impaired her faculties; she could walk with ease, see to read, thread a needle, and sew without spectacles but a few days before her death; she was remarkable for her cheerful temper and contented mind. Her remains repose at Abington.

The winter of 1835–6 was remarkable for a deep snow, which lay from about Christmas to the beginning of March, in a depth of four to five feet. Apples in an orchard, that had been covered with dropping leaves and snow in the latter part of November, were found in April in excellent preservation, and not the least injured. This snow destroyed nearly all the partridges and rabbits; opossums, which had been numerous before the snow, were not seen for six or seven years afterwards.

Hiram McNeal, a much esteemed and respectable citizen, was long a Justice of the Peace in Mooreland, and afterwards was appointed one of the Associate Judges of Montgomery County, in which office he died, March 22d, 1837, in his 74th year. His remains were followed by a large concourse of people to Abington.

The year 1839 will be long associated with the Morus multicaulus speculation. In the spring and summer of this year, the people throughout the county entered extensively into the raising, buying and selling of these trees; they were sold from 25 to 62½ cents per foot in height; fortunes were made and lost in a short time, and this too when money was extremely scarce. All were for raising, but it seems extraordinary now that their consumption was not considered, even by those who so eagerly embarked their fortunes. The result was, that by October they scarcely could be given away, and by the spring of 1840, many were seen

busily engaged in their eradication, and the fields were once more subjected to their accustomed crops. It was supposed that $10,000 were lost in Mooreland on Morus multicaulus; and what is strange, not long before considerable sums had been lost on other speculating manias, such as Berkshire pigs, Rohan potatoes and Dutton corn. The very mention of those names is enough to provoke a smile on the credulity of the times.

The turnpike road extending from the Willow Grove to Doylestown, was commenced in 1839, and finished in 1840; it is 11½ miles long, and laid with stone 20 feet wide; cost, $3,000 per mile.

In 1840 we had but two pensioners living; one deserves honorable mention, as being the last of our revolutionary soldiers; his name is William Prikhe, aged 86 years, he is since deceased. The other, Marlain Freas, aged 76.

The first paper printed in Mooreland, was by Oliver I. Search, at Hatborough, in June, 1840; it was called the "Literary Chronicle and Bucks and Montgomery Advertiser." It was continued several years, when it was removed to Newtown, where it became the Newtown Journal, which was discontinued in 1849.

The Foxchase and Huntingdon Turnpike Road was finished in 1848, and extends from the Sorrel Horse Tavern to the Foxchase, a distance of 5 miles. An act was passed the 11th of March, 1850, giving the said turnpike company the privilege to extend it to Richborough in Northampton, Bucks County.

In November, 1848, the Hatborough Lyceum and Debating Society was formed by a number of gentlemen in and around Hatborough; they hold their meetings in Loller Academy, generally once a week through the winter season. A general interest has been manifested, and it has continued to flourish; several of their essays have been published in the county papers.

The magnetic telegraph lines from Philadelphia to Wilkesbarre and New Hope, were extended through Mooreland in 1849, on the Easton and Middle Roads.

The Hon. Nathaniel B. Boilieu's father was Isaac Boilieu, who came from Long Island and settled in Mooreland about 1750; he was descended from ancestors driven from France by the repeal of the edict of Nantz. During the revolution he was an ardent friend of his country; he died Oct. 22d, 1803, in the 81st year of his age. Nathaniel was born on his father's plantation near Hatborough, in 1762, and at an early age graduated at Princeton College, though he never adopted a profession. For twelve years he was an active member of the State Legislature, where he took a leading part in the impeachment of the judges in 1805-6. In 1808 he was appointed Secretary of State by Governor Snyder, and continued the entire period of three terms. This was a trying time in the history of our State, and embraced the last war with England. During his official intercourse he won the entire confidence of Governor Snyder, and retained his warm friendship ever afterwards. In 1817 he was a candidate for governor, but the choice fell upon the Hon. William Findley. In 1835 Governor Ritner appointed him Re-

gister of Wills for Montgomery County, which was the last office he held; and since 1839 he lived in retirement on his farm in the lower part of Hatborough, adjoining the academy, till April, 1847. In 1849 he removed to Abington, where he died, the 16th of March, 1850, at the advanced age of 88 years, in the midst of a warm circle of friends. In all the relations of life, he commanded the esteem and confidence of the community, and was favorably known for many kind and benevolent acts. Four years before his death, we saw him read a newspaper without spectacles; when we expressed our surprise, he said such was his general practice, as his sight was little impaired. The fine cluster of pine trees before his mansion in Hatborough, where he resided much the greater part of his life, were planted with his own hands in 1810. To Mr. Boilieu we are much indebted for information concerning the history of Mooreland.

The Hatborough and Warminster Turnpike was incorporated the 8th of May, 1850, and extends from Willow Grove to the Street Road, a distance of 4½ miles; total cost $12,450; it is covered with stone 20 feet wide and 12 inches in depth. Sampson's Hill, half a mile above the Willow Grove, was ascertained in making the survey of this turnpike, to be 104 feet above the bridge at its base, and 120 feet above the water. It was necessary to cut into this hill a considerable depth, to bring it to the grade required by law. Stone was procured from it to make the road for several miles. Great blasts were made near the summit of the hill in the solid rock, one of which sent a rock of near a ton weight into an adjoining field thirty yards, and another fragment of about 400 pounds weight was lodged in the branches of a large cherry tree, where it hangs suspended, about twenty feet over the surface of the road, much to the astonishment of the traveller, who strives to solve, as he gazes, the mystery of its coming there. We were informed by Prof. H. D. Rodgers, the State geologist, that the rock in this Hill has an inclination of 60 degrees, and that the stone in the first hill north of the Willow Grove, is identical with that in Edge Hill.

We will again revert to the changes in men, matters and things, pertaining to Mooreland, from the commencement of the revolution to the present time. The sociality of former days, to which we have made some allusion in our first part, we can say, has lost nearly its existence at the present time. Formerly, nearly every farm had its cider press, and the young people had their apple cuttings and apple-butter boilings, and when these were over, some one of the party would "strike up" on the violin, in "double time;" no quadrilles, polkas and mazurkas, for these where then unknown, but jigs, reels and hoedowns, the very names of which are now forgotten. Then there were corn huskings, to which the whole neighborhood would be invited; and there was snow, and plenty of sleighing parties, for on the long evenings of winter, at the village inn would be found the "fiddler," who was one of the most prominent characters, and to dispense with him would be to cause no merry dance; but these parties have passed with the days of good sleighing. Likewise in the fall and winter seasons, but more generally about Christmas and New-year's, the men had their "shooting matches,"

where, with the rifle or gun they would have a trial of their skill at a mark, and the more successful would be seen coming thence, "homeward bound," well laden with "gobblers."

From the early settlement of Mooreland, down to about the year 1800, oxen were more generally used than horses for ploughing and other purposes that required a heavy draft. Gigs and chairs came into general use about the time of the revolution, as vehicles for conveyance on business or pleasure. Eliptic springs were then unknown to wagons, and the excessive jolting to which they were subject, from the roughness of the roads, was thought irremediable, and it was deemed best to become accustomed to it from necessity. Springs to wagons came into use about 1835. In 1776, stoves were generally used, and were of a large size, often weighing from three to five hundred weight; previously, large fireplaces or hearths were used nearly altogether. We were informed from a reliable source, that previous to 1780, there had not been a dozen of pumps in use in Mooreland, instead of which, for procuring water foom wells, the windlass was used and the ponderous well-sweep, which figured conspicuously in front of many a farm house. Of late years, the hydraulic ram is getting into use for conveying and elevating water from running streams; the first erected in Mooreland, was by Nicholas Kohl, on the farm of Isaac Warner, near the Sorrel Horse, in 1847; which elevates the water 127 feet* in a distance of half a mile, and has worked successfully since its erection. Thrashing machines by horse power came into use about 1832; before that time, would be heard from many a barn, in the winter season, the loud beating flail. Before 1790, our commodious cellar barns were unknown, as grain was generally stacked; and the few left us of about that time, are found converted into straw sheds or wagon houses, being too small to answer any other purpose in this progressive age. Of late years, great improvements have been made on farms by draining, especially in the vicinity of Willow Grove and Huntingdon; the land thus reclaimed has been found to produce the best crops of Indian corn.

It has been observed, that the climate has undergone a perceptible change within the last fifty years. Snows are not near the depth they formerly were; it was common thirty and forty years ago, to have at least four weeks sleighing in the winter; while now, within our knowledge, there has not been a week's sleighing at a time in the last ten years. Formerly, every farmer had his big sled, which was then deemed indispensible to go to market, carry wood, &c., and sometimes used as early as the latter part of November, while at present, not one farmer in twenty even owns one. Cattle are pastured several weeks earlier and later now than they were half a century ago; and the fall crops and garden vegetables are gathered in half a month later.

Intermittent fevers formerly prevailed considerably, particularly in the spring and fall; but since the country has become more clear and cultivated, with better dwellings constructed, they have totally disappeared. In 1793, the year of the yellow fever, and during the cholera

* Which is 35 feet higher than Fairmount.

in the summer of 1849, not a death occurred to a resident, and only the usual number died from other diseases, while elsewhere in many places, the rates of mortality were doubled. It has been observed of late years, that consumptions, typhus and scarlet fevers are more frequent.

The last fox was killed in 1847 on the Pennepack; none were seen for some years previous; it is believed they exist no longer in our district. Raccoon hunting by moonlight, thirty years ago, was a favorite diversion; they have now become scarce. Muskrats forty and fifty years ago along our streams, were not near as numerous as now; every year they are becoming more destructive to crops and fruit, and every year, strange to mention, are more destroyed; they seem, like the rabbit, to increase as the country is brought into cultivation, which causes their food to become abundant and their natural enemies less numerous.

Wild turkeys were occasionally seen in flocks as late as 1785. Turkey buzzards would often be seen forty and fifty together, down to about 1795, after which they were less frequent; there are numbers of individuals in Mooreland at the present time, who never knew of their existence here. Wild pigeons were seen at times in immense flocks, particularly in 1793, that were sometimes more than a mile long, and probably half of that distance in width. Previous to 1810 they bred in great numbers in the woods, and often forty nests were counted on one tree; often too, in the spring and fall so many were caught in nets, as to require horses and wagons to haul away what was taken. About the year 1812, immense numbers of blackbirds would be seen in the meadows near the Willow Grove, while now they are rarely seen. Eagles have been shot at different times; one was shot in 1778 by Thomas Hallowell, that had carried away several lambs; in 1817 one was shot, the wings of which, in extent, measured seven feet one and a-half inches, and weighed eight and a-quarter pounds; in 1843 one was shot by Samuel Hobensack on Huckleberry Hill, a conic eminence a mile east of the Willow Grove, that measured seven feet in expanse; another was shot by Jesse Homer, a mile north-west of the Willow Grove, in 1848, which was seven feet four inches in extent and near four feet in length. The pheasant, or ruffed grouse, (*Tetrao umbellus,*) is still frequently found on the hills of Mooreland, while, strange to say, in many other localities less populous it is seldom or never seen.

The fish in the Pennepack and its tributaries have changed considerably in kind and quality. Fifty years ago, the principal fish caught in nets, were suckers, roaches, sunfish, pike and chubs; but by the erection of many milldams since, the water has lost its original purity, and these fish have become scarce, while the eel and catfish, in this more congenial element are found more plentiful. Muscles too, are found in greater numbers than formerly.

As late as the year 1780 there was seen standing a noble forest, mostly of shellbark hickory, extending within half a mile below the bridge at Hatborough, down the Pennepack some distance below the Newtown Road, and south-west within half a mile of the Willow Grove. These trees were of extraordinary height, and it is supposed, covered then at least six hundred acres. At the same time there was another

forest composed mostly of pine, situated about half way between Huntingdon and Smithfield, which covered in extent about 500 acres. The way first made through it, derived its name of Pine Road from this forest; a portion only is now standing; the writer, seven or eight years ago, measured stumps near five feet in diameter. Previous to 1790, the neighborhood in and around was known as the "Pines." Wood for fuel, is said to be as cheap now as fifty years ago. In the severe winter of 1835–6, hickory wood was sold as high as fifteen dollars a cord, in Philadelphia; much was then taken from the neighborhood of Hatborough to the city. In 1842, it was sold for six, and the present price is five dollars.

Between the years 1810 and 1825, it was common to see twenty and thirty teams, of four and six horses each, together on the Easton Road, carrying freight between Philadelphia and Easton, Wilkesbarre and other places. Some of these teamsters became wealthy. It is said, one by the name of Stover was so expert with the whip, as to play tunes with it. The construction of canals and railroads, finally caused them to disappear by the year 1838. Another class of individuals, about that time would be seen in the spring, on the same road, a-foot, often thirty and forty together, going homeward; these were raftsmen, from Pike and Wayne counties, in this State, who had taken lumber to the city. We will conclude our history with a description of Moreland.

Moreland Township, Philadelphia County, is bounded north-east and east, by Byberry, south by Lower Dublin, and west by Moreland, Montgomery County. Its greatest length is $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles; breadth, $1\frac{1}{2}$; area, about 3700 acres. Smithfield, now called Somerton, is partly situated in Mooreland; the elections and the township business generally are transacted here, it contains about thirty houses, two taverns, three stores, a post office and a M. E. Church. A stone turnpike connects it with the city, from which it is thirteen miles.

Moreland Township, Montgomery County, is bounded on the north-east by Bucks County; south-east by Byberry and Moreland, in Philadelphia County; on the south-west by Abington; and on the north-west by Horsham and Upper Dublin Townships. Its length is six miles, and breadth, three; area, 17.9 square miles, or 11,464 acres. In 1830, it was stated to be 11,315; this is no doubt owing to the increased value of land, from closer measurements, and the areas being computed from the numerous lots and farms, of which, in making surveys, the necessary allowances are seldom made for ascents and descents, which should be required to be reduced to horizontal surface. The two townships contain near 23.7 square miles, or 15,164 acres, with a population of 120 to every mile. If the State were settled in the same proportion, it would contain considerably more than twice its present number of inhabitants.

The Pennepack Creek is the most considerable stream flowing through Mooreland, which it crosses diagonally, from a north-east course, to the centre of the township, when it turns south-east, and enters Abington, not far below Huntingdon. It is a steady and well supplied stream, and in a course of seven miles through Mooreland, turns seven flouring

mills, and receives seven tributary streams; the most considerable of which, are the Huntingdon and Willow Grove creeks, which turn several mills. The Pennepack rises in Horsham and flows nearly in a southward direction to where it empties into the Delaware, ten miles above Philadelphia; following its meanderings, it has a course of nearly twenty-four miles. There is no stream for its length probably, in Pennsylvania, more connected with its early history than the Pennepack; it has formed a boundary in no less than four purchases with the Indians by William Penn and his agents. On its banks in 1686, the Baptists built their first church in the State, and one of the oldest flouring mills, a large and substantial stone structure, is standing at Hamburg, bearing on its front a stone dated 1697; this mill stands at the head of sloop navigation. General Washington and his army had occasion to cross this stream several times in the Revolution. The Poquessing rises from two small branches in the eastern part of Mooreland, and forms, for some distance, the boundary between Bucks and Philadelphia counties.

The soil, with scarcely any exception over the whole of Mooreland, is a fertile loam, and out of 11,464 acres, 10,127 are improved land. The surface of the soil was originally rocky, but cultivation in a century and a half have effected such a change in its appearance as to cause one to doubt the assertion.

In the neighborhood of Willow Grove there are indications of iron, but not in sufficient quantities to warrant success in mining. Several chalybeate springs are found in this vicinity; of these, the Willow Grove Spring is the best known. Isaac Lea, in 1827, in his work on the minerals found around Philadelphia, was the first to mention that chlorite of a dark green color was found in the quartz in and around the same place. In the beginning of May 1850, a plumbago or black-lead mine was opened on the Welsh road, half a mile northwest of Huntingdon; a considerable quantity, for a while, was procured of excellent quality, but it was finally abandoned from the expense of obtaining it. It was known there forty years ago by the school children collecting fragments of it by the road side for drawing. Good stone for building purposes is obtained in any part of Mooreland; several fine brown sandstone quarries have been opened on the Pennepack near Hatborough.

Among our indigenous trees are the following edible fruit bearing kind: walnut, butternut, shellbark, chesnut, cherry, red plum, mulberry and persimmon; the others are red, black, white and chestnut oak, hickory, maple, poplar, beech, sassafras, cedar, gum, dogwood, pine, ash and elm. Of our trees, probably the following are the largest, a thrifty chestnut is standing half a mile east of Willow Grove, that measures eighteen feet in circumference, another on the farm of Isaac Warner, near the Sorrel Horse, is twenty one feet. On the farm of the Hydropathic Institute is a cherry tree twelve feet, and a walnut of eighteen feet girth was cut in January, 1851, on the farm of Stephen Walton.

The general aspect of Mooreland is beautifully diversified with hill and dale, and copiously watered with limpid streams. Through its centre Edge Hill crosses in a western direction, and continues to the Schuylkill. The highest eminence is the top of the hill, half a mile east of the Willow Grove; here in the summers of 1840–1, Frederick Hassler, Superintendent of the U. S. Coast Survey, with assistants, encamped. They had here a superior collection of instruments, and a signal stationed, communicating with those at Mount Holly, Woodbury, Attleborough, Girard College, and several in Delaware county. The prospect from the hill is grand, embracing part of New Jersey, the valley of the Pennepack, and Sandy Run, with many villages, farm houses and cottages, the hills of the Neshaminy and Schuylkill for many miles, till their blue eminences vanish in the distance. The streams of this hill flow into the Delaware and Schuylkill. From any of the numerous eminences in the vicinity of Willow Grove, charming prospects are offered of a rich and well cultivated country. On the hill, half a mile northeast of the paper mill, a romantic view is obtained by looking in a southwest direction, the valley of the Pennepack, with its mills and manufactories, is seen far below, and beyond is Yerkesville, and the wood crowned summits of Edge Hill occupying the background. When we gazed from this hill for the first time we came to the conclusion that we had believed before that Mooreland could not present one romantic prospect, but in this we were deceived. We make mention of it here with pleasure, especially for the information of those who leave the city to spend the summers with us, and have a desire to gaze over the beauties of nature. How much that is beautiful can we find near our homes, without the necessity of going to distant countries, if we would but cultivate the taste to appreciate and exercise our faculties of observation.

If the traveller comes in the stage coach or other conveyance, from Philadelphia to Easton, he may have noticed, after his rather monotonous ride, the beautiful landscape spread before him from the top of Edge Hill. This is the first glimpse of Mooreland to the citizen from his pent up streets; it is one of the most refreshing sights as it lies before him with its hills and vales sprinkled with numerous farm houses and white-washed cottages, half embowered in orchards and peeping from fields, variegated with crops and interspersed with woods and meadows, with the occasional glimpse of a sparkling stream, and the whole enclosed in distant hills, completes the picture we have endeavored to describe. This part of the country a late English traveller compares to the south of England.*

It is supposed that about one half of our population are of English descent, one-fourth German, and the remainder mostly of Irish and Welsh. The census of 1850 gave 1351 males, and 1224 females; those of foreign birth number 244, mostly Germans and Irish; the colored population has decreased for many years, and now number but thirty,

*See Chambers' Information for the People, art. U. S.

POPULATION AT DIFFERENT PERIODS.

| Date, | 1790 | 1800 | 1810 | 1820 | 1830 | 1840 | 1850 | 1850 Families | 1850 Houses |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Moreland, Mont. Co., | | | 1692 | 1890 | 2044 | 2162 | 2351 | 411 | 410 |
| Moreland, Philada. Co., | | 362 | 400 | 443 | 418 | 469 | 493 | 85 | 81 |
| Total, | | | 2092 | 2333 | 2462 | 2631 | 2844 | 496 | 491 |

Nearly three-fourths of the people are employed in agriculture. There are 227 farms, averaging fifty acres each, keeping 622 horses and 1322 head of cattle,* 880 sheep, and 1026 swine. Producing in 1849 22,442 bushels of wheat, 52,175 bushels of Indian corn, 46,800 bushels of oats, 108,225 pounds of butter, and 4,797 tons of hay. Animals were slaughtered the same year amounting in value to upwards of $23,000. The real estate is valued at $1,144,978. Gordon, in his Gazetteer, says, that this part of the county in the state of its agriculture "is equal to that in any part of the United States."

Within the last few years the state of agriculture has been much improved by the saving and better application of manure and the general introduction of lime, guano and plaster. There is not as much attention given to the cultivation of fruit as there might be, especially to the select varieties of the apple, pear, quince and grape. That this neglect has been detrimental to the farmer's interest, we have only to reflect on the prices that fruit has been bringing for several years past; apples have averaged as much per bushel as wheat, pears have brought double, quinces triple, and grapes quadruple to that of grain, which is considered the most valuable and just as liable to failures. We are confident that no part of Pennsylvania is more congenial to the fruit named than our own district, from what we know and have seen. How much would be added to the value of a farm by having a good selection of fruit bearing trees, and how much might be said as to the profits and to the charm and comforts of our homes, combined with the beauty of well laden trees and arbors? Nature has done much for us, but *man* might do more, by a style of building better adapted to our climate, as the Tuscan or Italian cottage style, which combines, to a greater degree, cheapness, taste, convenience and comfort, than any other; with greater attention to the improvement of stock, to fruit and flowers, and whatever else makes a country home the most attractive spot on earth; and to which our attachment would tenaciously cling, like the ivy or trumpet flower to the cottage wall, where one gives support that the other may beautify, and thus render each other mutually attractive.

*In 1832 there were three hundred and ninety-six horses, and six hundred and eighty-one cattle, a remarkable increase as compared with the population within the same time; it is owing to the advanced state of agriculture.

About one-fourth of our population are engaged in manufactures and trades, keeping in operation ten flouring mills, grinding 71,700 bushels of wheat, and 58,500 bushels of other grain; three saw mills, one paper mill, using 334,000 pounds of rags and other articles to the amount of $6,910; one cotton factory, twelve blacksmith shops, eight wheelright shops, nine taverns, eight stores and four post offices.

Thirty years ago, there was not in our township a single house of worship; this was not so much owing to the sparseness of the population as to their situation, in being surrounded conveniently with churches and meeting houses of which mention has been made on a former page. Of the various denominations, the Society of Friends are the most numerous; in consequence of a division amongst them in some points of doctrine, a portion withdrew about twenty years ago from Horsham meeting to worship in a house now known as the Orthodox meeting; it stands nearly in the western corner of the township near the Horsham line. The Methodist Episcopalians have two churches, one at Hatborough, built in 1836, another on the Welsh road three-fourths of a mile west of Huntingdon, erected in 1848, and standing in an elevated situation, from which a beautiful prospect is obtained of the surrounding country, and appropriately called "Fairview." One preacher, who resides at Hatborough, is placed in charge of both. The Baptists have a church in the upper part of Hatborough, built in 1839.

Our township forms one school district, which has at present seven public schools, open ten months in the year; five hundred and eighty-two children had attended these schools within twelve months previous to June 1st, 1850. About $2000 is levied annually, besides the appropriation of $220 from the State for educational purposes. An act was passed by the General Assembly the 30th of June, 1836, establishing public schools throughout the Commonwealth, by which every township was made a school district. The provisions of this act left to the votables of every township whether they would accept the common school system or not, by which the schools should receive an annual appropriation from the State, with power to raise by taxation a sum sufficient to make them free to all, and to be kept open as long as the directors thought proper. Moreland township became a non-accepting district and the old system was continued, by which the trustees of every school selected their own teachers and the parents of the children paid the teachers so much a day or quarter for the schooling of their children, and a small sum was annually raised by taxation to pay for the education of children whose parents were unable to pay their schooling. On the 11th of April, 1848, an act was passed extending the common school system over the entire State, and on the third of July following, the school directors of Moreland, acting under the said law, put the system first into operation by the opening of five schools for six months, and ending by the close of the school year, June 1st, 1849. Since that time in 1850, two new school houses were built, one at the Paper Mill, and the Walnut Valley school house on the Byberry road, and the schools kept open the time first mentioned.

Hatborough is the largest village in Moreland, and is situated on both sides of the York road turnpike, fifteen miles north of Philadelphia; the Pennepack creek flows through its southern part. It contains 304 inhabitants, about fifty-six houses, three stores, two taverns, mill, academy, Odd Fellow's hall, blacksmith and wheelwright shops, &c. The post office was stationed here in 1809, mostly through the exertions of N. B. Boilieu. This place has been very fortunate in receiving donations at various times from different individuals, to the amount of upwards of $25,000, for the erection of the academy, M. E. Church and library. The M. E. Church was built in 1836 by a donation of $6,000 for the purpose, from Joseph Lehman of Philadelphia, besides the parsonage in 1843. The present library house was built by a donation of Nathan Hall,* who left $3000 for the erection of a new and more commodious building, and $2,000 on perpetual interest for the purchase of new books annually. Afterwards there came about $800 additional to the company from the final settlement of his estate, which was applied to the original sum for the building, with that derived from the sale of the former library house. The present building is a neat and classic structure of stone, of the Doric order, and was built in 1849, at a cost of upwards of $4,000. The lot of one acre on which it stands, was purchased in 1848 for $400, and the books removed from the former building in March, 1850. The library has at present about four thousand volumes and eighty-three members; it has been the means of diffusing, for nearly half a century, considerable information among the people of its vicinity, and contains many rare and costly works. Mr. Morton, the present librarian, has served in that capacity for many years. The Odd Fellow's hall was built in 1851 by the Lodge, who use the upper story and lease the lower part to different occupants; it was dedicated the 9th of October in the same year. The public school for this place is held in the Loller Academy, where also in the winter season the Lyceum holds its meetings. In 1813 the elections were removed from Abington and held here for the townships of Moreland and Horsham, for a number of years.

Willow Grove derived its name about sixty years ago from a grove of willows, a few of which are yet standing; it contains about twenty houses, three hotels, two stores, post office and the usual mechanics; is beautifully situated in a charming vale, surrounded by hills, with a rich, productive country in the vicinity. It is highly salubrious, and abounds in springs of excellent water, and has been, for a number of years a place of resort in the summer season, by the citizens of Philadelphia, who are induced, by its numerons attractions, to spend with their familes a few weeks or months agreeably from the impure air and confined streets of the city. Half a mile northwest of the village is Dr. Schifferdecker's Hydropathic Institute, commenced in 1848, and has since been in suc-

*Mr. Hall was a native of Horsham, and died near Horshamville on his paternal estate in 1848, in his 89th year. He stated, not long previous to his death, that for most of his knowledge he was indebted to this library, of which he was a member for many years.

successful operation. The school house was built in 1839 on a half acre lot, presented for the purpose by George Rex, deceased; it is in a quiet and shady spot on the Newtown road a short distance from the village; on Sundays public worship is held here, and a Sabbath school, with a library. Three chartered turnpike companies meet in this place, one connects with Philadelphia thirteen miles, to which pass five daily lines of stages. The fire engine company is the only one in Moreland; the engine was purchased in 1845 and a building erected for its accommodation in 1848. The Willow Grove creek after a course of a mile from the village, empties into the Pennepack. From here a mile southward, the celebrated White Marsh lime is procured.

Huntingdon Valley formerly went by the name of Goosetown, which originated, it is said, from the many geese raised here by the Pennepack; it is connected with Philadelphia by a stone turnpike finished in 1848. It contains twelve houses, a merchant mill, store, tavern, post office, blacksmith and wheelright shops, &c.; three stage lines pass to the city, from which it is eleven and a half miles. The school house was built about 1790, and stands a short distance from the village on the Welsh road, and half a mile further is the Fairview M. E. Church. Near the Lady Washington tavern, about half a mile from Huntingdon, the Odd Fellows built in 1850 Eagle Hall, where the lodge holds its meetings.

Yerkesville is situated on a small stream that empties into the Pennepack, and contains ten houses, a cotton factory, store, blacksmith shop, &c.

The elections of Moreland are held at the Sorrel Horse tavern, where the township business is generally transacted; it is at the head of the Middle road turnpike, thirteen and a half miles from Philadelphia. A post office is established here.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA